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CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Goebel's Organography.

THE FIRST PART of the second volume of this great work on the organography of plants has already been reviewed in this journal.[1] The second and concluding part,[2] now before us, deals almost exclusively with reproduction in pteridophytes and seed plants. The principal subjects are (1) the function of the shoot in reproduction, under which are included the flowers and sporophylls of pteridophytes, gymnosperms, and angiosperms; and (2) the reproductive organs, the principal headings being the mature sporangia of pteridophytes, development of sporangia, hypothetical phylogeny of the formation of sporangia, apospory, microsporangia of seed plants, megasporangia of seed plants.

The work, in large part, is based upon the author's own observations, and many facts in the development of pteridophytes and spermatophytes, as well as the theories drawn from them, are published here for the first time. As might be anticipated from the writer's previous work, the biological side of the subject is strongly emphasized. It is interesting to note that the term "flower," while not made sufficiently elastic to include the sporangial region of Onoclea, is nevertheless extended beyond the spermatophytes and applied to the strobili of Equisetum, Selaginella, etc. According to the author, a flower is "a shoot beset with sporophylls," but how far the boundary is to be pushed is a subjective matter. Bisporangiate flowers are regarded as primitive, most monosporangiate flowers being due to suppression. Bower's classification of the ferns into Simplices, Gradatae, and Mixtae is regarded as useful.

It is very unfortunate that the book contains no index. The table of contents is rather full, but cannot supply the place of an index when one wishes to find some particular thing without a provoking delay. The references to literature are meager and indefinite, and are to be found only as footnotes. The book is essential to the morphologist and ecologist, and it is to be hoped that the English translation will not be long delayed.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

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[1] BOTANICAL GAZETTE 31: 204. 1901.

[2] GOEBEL, K., Organographie der Pflanzen insbesondere der Archegoniaten und Samenpflanzen. Zweiter Teil. Specielle Organographie. 2 Heft: Pteridophyten und Samenpflanzen. Zweiter Teil. 8vo. pp. 649–828. 107 illustrations. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1901. *M* 5.